

Pen Selwood Allotment Association

Statement on Health and Safety

Members will be required as a condition of membership (and hence as tenants) to observe the guidelines in this statement

The Law

Occupiers' Liability Act (1957)

Places a common duty of care on anyone involved in allotment management to ensure their allotment site(s) is run in as safe and appropriate manner as possible.

Control of Pesticides Regulations (amended) (1997)

Places responsibility on anyone who uses or stores pesticides to ensure all reasonable precautions to protect the health of humans, creatures and plants, safeguard the environment and avoid the pollution of water.

Guidelines

All activities carry an element of risk and allotment gardening is no exception. Everyone needs to take health and safety seriously, but it is also very important for allotment tenants not to become litigation paranoid" and to approach the issue sensibly.

New and existing allotment tenants have a responsibility (duty of care) to anyone on their plot, regardless of whether they have given permission for them to be there. You should act responsibly and comply with any health and safety instructions mentioned in the tenancy agreement, and any subsequent information given by the Allotment Association. Health and safety only becomes unmanageable when responsibilities are neglected.

New allotment tenants will be advised about any ongoing health and safety risks or hazards on the allotment site at the time of taking on the plot and signing the tenancy agreement. If you are not sure of your own responsibilities as an allotment tenant, ask the Allotment Association about health and safety and what your own responsibilities are.

How to report hazards and concerns

Allotment tenants should report concerns about health and safety on their plot, or the site, to the Allotment Association as soon as they occur. A list of contact details will be displayed on the notice board in the stable.

Visitors should be told of any known ongoing health and safety issues.

Personal safety

Allotment gardeners often spend long periods of time alone on their plot, so it's a good idea to let someone know where you are and what time you will return home. Other sources of advice to allotment holders are

- the local police for information about personal safety and crime prevention.
- the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for health and safety advice.
- the Suzy Lamplugh Trust for personal safety advice

Vandalism

Most of the time allotments are havens of peace in an otherwise busy world, where allotment tenants put in many hours of work. In order to reduce the risk of vandalism, allotment tenants should always report instances of vandalism to the police and obtain an incident number, as well as informing the Allotment Association of the incident.

Cutting down chemical use

You can do your bit for the environment by relying less on chemical pesticides and fertilisers. There are organisations that can give you help and advice to help you cut down your chemical use.

Allotment tenants have a duty of care to store, use and dispose of pesticides and fertilisers properly. This includes weed killers, rat poisons, fungicides and soil sterilants. Pesticides should never be decanted into any other container. Pesticides should never be brought into the UK from other countries. They should always be stored well out of reach of children and locked away.

Disposal of pesticides and fertilisers

Allotment tenants should contact their council waste management department for information about facilities for the safe disposal of surplus pesticides and fertilisers. Pesticides should never be included in household rubbish, burnt, placed in skips, or poured into any kind of drainage system or watercourse.

First Aid Kit

This is available at all times and can be found in the locked storage area. All accidents should be noted in an accident book. Any items used should be reported to the Management Committee.

A list of the Plot Holders who have attended the First Aid training course in the Village in 2008/9 will be available in the locked storage. There are currently 7 people who can administer basic First Aid.